

Neil Krutz
City Manager
City of Sparks

Eric Brown
County Manager
Washoe County

Kevin Dick
District Health Officer
Washoe County Health
District

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board

WASHOE COUNTY
HEALTH DISTRICT
ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

Doug Thornley
City Manager
City of Reno

Dr. John Hardwick
Emergency Room Physician

Joe Macaluso
Director of Risk Management
Renown

MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

This meeting was held by teleconference.

1. *Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Chair Krutz called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

The following members and staff were present:

Members present: Neil Krutz, Chair
Kevin Dick
Eric Brown
Joe Macaluso
Dr. John Hardwick
Doug Thornley

Members absent: None

Ms. Spinola verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Dania Reid, Deputy District Attorney
Andrea Esp, Preparedness and EMS Program Manager
Julie Hunter, EMS Program Coordinator
Anastasia Gunawan, EMS Statistician
Dawn Spinola, Administrative Secretary, Recording Secretary

2. *Public Comment

Limited to three (3) minutes per person. No action may be taken.

Chair Krutz opened the public comment period. As there was no one wishing to speak, Chair Krutz closed the public comment period.

3. Consent Items (For Possible Action)

Matters which the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A. Approval of Draft Minutes

February 4, 2021

Mr. Dick moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Thornley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

B. Introduction and welcome to new Board member Dr. John Hardwick

Neil Krutz

Chair Krutz welcomed Dr. Hardwick.

Dr. Hardwick stated he had been practicing in Reno since 2017. In 2020 he became the Medical Director for Sparks and Reno-Tahoe Airport fire departments. He operates out of all the local hospitals except for St. Mary's. He serves as the president of PMAC and is a Board member of the Washoe County Medical Society.

4. *Prehospital Medical Advisory Committee (PMAC) Update

Dr. John Hardwick

Dr. Hardwick reported that the protocol meeting had been held to introduce Ketorolac which is a strong nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), a non-narcotic for the treatment of acute pain. That is being brought into the protocols as an adjunct instead of just using narcotics for pain, which he opined was encouraging.

5. Discussion and possible approval of EMSAB revised bylaws (For Possible Action)

Julie Hunter

Ms. Hunter introduced herself for the record. She began by noting the EMSAB bylaws were revised to closer align with the language in the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for purposes of consistency. There were only a few suggested revisions, and those were outlined in the staff report.

Mr. Brown moved to approve. Mr. Macaluso seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

6. *Program and Performance Data Updates

Andrea Esp

Program Updates – Program Activities, Data Performance and Mass Gatherings Updates

Ms. Esp introduced herself for the record. She began by indicating there were a few items she wished to highlight for the Board. Most importantly, she acknowledged the work of the local fire agencies and REMSA. Since the beginning of the year, they had worked on reviewing the Tri-Data report, the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM) report from Reno, as well as the Washoe County EMS strategic plan. They were able to come to a consensus on some key priorities that they want to make sure the region carries forward, which would be discussed further in another agenda item. She made it a point to reiterate that their commitment to the region and making sure that continuing improvements to patient care has remained a top priority for them.

7. Presentation, discussion, possible approval, and recommendation to present the revised

Washoe County EMS Strategic Plan (2019-2023), as a requirement of the Interlocal Agreement for the Emergency Medical Services Oversight, to the District Board of Health (For Possible Action)

Julie Hunter

Ms. Hunter began by reminding the Board that the Washoe County EMS Strategic Plan is a requirement of the ILA for the Emergency Medical Services Oversight program. The mission of the plan is to coordinate the delivery of efficient and effective medical services to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Washoe County through the collaboration of the EMS providers. The strategic plan was approved by the EMSAB on May 2, 2019, and the last progress report was given to the board on February 6, 2020. Goal # 6 sets timelines for providing updates to EMSAB, and staff are working to get those back on schedule.

Ms. Hunter reiterated that the EMS Oversight staff had worked with the EMS Task Force and its partners in February to review the recommendations in the Tri-Data and the CPSM report to come up with items that were a priority to the group, and to incorporate those into the goals and objectives of the strategic plan. The main focus was on training, legal protection, priority response, automatic response agreements, and standardized performance measures across all agencies. These priorities were incorporated into Goals #1, #2 and #4. Goal #7 was added to include legal protection for all agencies. An outline of the summary of the recommendations and additions were outlined in the staff report.

Mr. Dick requested some background on the thinking behind the legal protections and in general what is being sought there. Ms. Hunter replied that it had come up often in discussions and was a recommendation from one of the two reports. It is to research legal protection for all agencies to ensure that staff understand their legal protection. The planned strategy is to research and identify legal gaps and deficiencies, and to determine if maybe there needs to be a new bill that should be sponsored for the 2022 legislative session containing language that protects EMS responders. In the meantime, they will research those gaps and see if there is anything that can be done to protect EMS response in the community.

Mr. Dick moved to approve the strategic plan revisions and to have this presented to the District Board of Health. Mr. Macaluso seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation and possible approval of the 2019 Washoe County Trauma Data Report (For Possible Action)

Anastasia Gunawan

Nancy Diao introduced herself for the record, and explained she was filling in for Miss Anastasia Gunawan, who was the lead in compiling the Trauma Data Report for 2019 that summarizes the prevalence, morbidity and mortality associated with patterns of fatal and non-fatal injuries due to trauma. Ms. Diao highlighted that there had been a decrease in the rate of trauma incidence per 100,000 population in the year 2019 compared to the previous two years. However, despite overall rate drops, there were noticeable increases in trauma patients 65 years and older this particular year. For this age group, the top contributors to injuries are unintentional, such as falling, stumbling, and slipping. For 2019 overall, there was an increase in unintentional injuries and a decrease in intentional injuries. Among intentional injuries, two out of three trauma cases reported were due to assault by a sharp or blunt object, and bodily force. Firearm-related incidents only accounted for 20% of intentional injuries. Accidental falls are the

primary mechanism of unintentional injuries, followed by motor vehicle accidents. Details of other mechanisms of injury breakdown as spatial patterns were also available in the report for reference.

Mr. Dick noted the Health District worked with the District Board of Health (DBOH) on a strategic plan that included a Health Educator position to focus on unintentional injuries but had been unable to fill that position this past year because of the COVID-19 response. He was hopeful that the district would soon have a staff member that will be focusing on that area.

Dr. Hardwick added some context, explaining that in 2019 Renown implemented a TBI protocol, dictating that anyone over the age of 65 who had struck their head with an associated loss of consciousness or struck their head and was on blood thinners went immediately to CT imaging. He opined there is potential that more of these injuries were caught due to this. Renown had also provided further education on the topic. An aging population is, at least in part, to blame for that increase, but they were likely also capturing more trauma patients because they were scanning more of them with the new protocols.

Mr. Dick moved to approve the 2019 Trauma Data Report. Dr. Hardwick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

9. *REMSA Update

Adam Heinz

REMSA Quarterly EMS Advisory Report

Adam Heinz, Executive Director Integrated Health Services, introduced himself to the Board. He indicated he would like to introduce some upcoming things to the Board that were not included in the staff report. He began by noting the week of May 16th is EMS week and the theme is “This is EMS – Caring for our Communities.” REMSA has things planned to recognize and celebrate the brave men and women that work for their organization every day and are thankful for the community that has participated in many of the scheduled events. In addition, many of the Board members, as well as other important community stakeholders, had been invited to celebrate REMSA’s 35th anniversary and Care Flight’s 40th anniversary. On May 18 REMSA will be hosting a breakfast and will have a special announcement.

Mr. Heinz went on to note that REMSA had a record-breaking day during the past weekend, with 265 responses and 182 transports. Over the past few weeks, they and the co-response partners have experienced a 25% increase with many significant traumas. In order to meet the demand of paramedics in light of the national shortage, the Center for Pre-Hospital Education at REMSA has historically hosted two public paramedic programs and one fire-based program that works with the response partners, usually on a B shift, so that the fire partners can be trained. REMSA will be adding an additional paramedic program this fall to keep up with the region’s demand and likely that is going to be a non-traditional, evening-based paramedic program, to see if that helps recruit some talent within the region.

Mr. Heinz noted that on May 5 Dr. Wilson and some of REMSA’s co-response partners got together, and she facilitated a talk about ketamine and behavioral health emergencies in response with law enforcement. Their intention is to work proactively with local law enforcement to ensure responder safety, patient safety, and optimized care. There has been a lot of national news media about the way in which patients are cared for during behavioral emergencies and they want to make sure that the region is doing what is evidence-based as well as what is best for the community. Those dialogs will continue and include law enforcement partners.

Mr. Heinz stated that REMSA recently took delivery of a high-fidelity mannequin that allows for electronic birthing. They are aware that obstetric emergencies are something that do not happen often, and in which mainly the mother does most of the work. But when they do, they want to make sure that they feel comfortable being able to provide that care. They intend to invite the co-response partners to train for those emergencies.

Mr. Heinz went on to thank Ms. Esp and Ms. Hunter for their work in coordinating and facilitating regional dialogs. He opined they were meeting very frequently and there has been quite a bit of communication happening.

10. *Sparks Fire Department Updates

Chief Jim Reid
EMS Updates

Captain Sullivan, EMS training captain from Sparks Fire, introduced himself and noted he was filling in for Chief Reid. All information was in the staff report, and he offered to answer any questions.

11. *Truckee Meadows Fire and Rescue Updates

Chief Joe Kammann
Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) Advisory Board Update

Division Chief Kammann, TMFPD, introduced himself for the record. He began by noting that the most important thing that they wanted to update the Board on was the addition of mutual aid response via ambulance. Medic 30 is in Washoe Valley and Medic 45 is in Sun Valley providing mutual aid response to assist REMSA in transports in those areas. That began November 7th and is still in progress. They were averaging about 120 transports until recently, when they began to be utilized on a more expanded mutual aid basis. Instead of those units being geographically isolated to the Sun Valley and Washoe Valley areas, they are now also responding to the closest immediately outlying areas. Another 10-15 transports per month are anticipated due to that change.

Chief Kammann went on to report that TMFPD COVID activities were winding down and after June 1 will go to as-needed PODs instead of a scheduled weekly basis. Additionally, there are 19 firefighter paramedics currently on probation and 10 of them are in the academy and will be graduating June 18. That brings their total to 101 State-certified paramedics on staff. 25 of those are wildland qualified paramedics that are gearing up for this summer and ready to assist as needed around the country when wildfires start.

Mr. Dick acknowledged all the fire agencies and REMSA and thanked them for their efforts in providing vaccination PODs and vaccinations for the community. It has been a fantastic help to have them engaged in those operations.

12. *City of Reno and REMSA CAD-to-CAD Implementation Project Update

Kathleen Nickel

Ms. Esp noted that Ms. Nickel had had to leave the meeting but had left a note in the Chat area for the Board. Ms. Reid requested that the Chair read the note into the record, which he agreed to do.

“Good morning Chairman and members of the Board and guests. Kathleen Nickel, Senior Systems Analyst, City of Reno. As we worked through the CAD-to-CAD project it was necessary to scale it back tremendously due to Central Square’s inability to provide complete functionality between two separate CAD environments. We ended up with base functionality, which has been met and is being reviewed by departments to allow them proper planning to reduce liability since it will have a big impact on our current procedures. Training is being scheduled with a tentative of go-live by the end of June.”

Ms. Hunter noted she had received an email from Ms. Nickels offering to email the group, and Chair Krutz opined that would be helpful. While he appreciated the note, he indicated it would be nice to understand what the inability to provide complete functionality really means. Ms. Hunter indicated she would make that request.

13. *Board Comment

Limited to announcements or issues for future agendas. No action may be taken.

None of the members had comments or requests.

14. *Public Comment

Limited to three (3) minutes per person. No action may be taken.

Chair Krutz opened the public comment period.

Dave Cochran, Reno Fire Chief, introduced himself and noted he would like to share what they had been doing on the vaccination front. He acknowledged Mr. Dick’s gratitude. Reno Fire has administered over 8,800 vaccines and expect to get to over 10,000. Immunize Nevada has been very active in the community.

Chief Cochran went on to say that this month is Older Americans Month, and they were partnering with Councilmembers Delgado and Jardon to get vaccinations out to the older members of the community in addition to some other PODs that they were doing. He closed by explaining that Reno Fire had a 15-member recruiting academy as of approximately five weeks ago. As part of the academy this year they were adding a few EMS-specific weeks at the end, so the trainees had a better idea of their EMS obligations and duties before they begin work to serve the public and others in the region.

Chair Krutz closed the public comment period.

Adjournment

Chair Krutz adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.
